

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

With this amendment, claims 1, 3 – 9, 11 – 24, 26 – 31, 38, 44 – 49 are in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Patentability of the Claims

Claims 1, 3 – 7, 44 and 45 were allowed in the last office action. Claims 10, 11, 15 -23, 25 – 29, 32 and 38 were deemed to recited allowable subject matter (paragraph 6 of the office action).

Claim 8 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 10 and, therefore, is now in condition for allowance. Claim 10 is cancelled.

Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of original base claim 8 and, therefore is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 9, and 12 – 14 are allowable in combination with their now-allowable base claims.

New dependent claim 46 is similar to claim 9 but dependent upon amended claim 11.

New dependent claim 47 is similar to claim 9 but dependent upon amended claim 15.

Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of original base claim 8 and, therefore is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 16 – 23 are allowable in combination with their now-allowable base claim.

Claim 24 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 25 and, therefore, is now in condition for allowance. Claim 25 is cancelled.

Claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of original base claim 24 and, therefore is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 27 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of original base claim 24 and, therefore is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 28 – 30 are allowable in combination with their now-allowable base claims.

New dependent claim 48 is similar to claim 30 but dependent upon amended claim 26.

New dependent claim 49 is similar to claim 30 but dependent upon amended claim 27.

Claim 31 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 32 and, therefore, is now in condition for allowance. Claims 32 – 37 are cancelled.

Claim 38 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of original base claim 31 and, therefore is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 39 – 43 have been cancelled.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicant believes that all of the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and an early notification to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, she is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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